

REMARKS

The amendments made to claim 1 were merely for the purpose of correcting typographical errors.

The examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 7-12, 16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bhatt et al, U.S. Patent 5,822,856, hereinafter Bhatt et al. This rejection is not thought to be well taken.

First, it should be noted that the claims are all method claims, and to anticipate the single reference must show the *steps* claimed, not merely the resulting structure. Moreover, the single reference must show each and every step claimed. For example, claim 1, the only independent claim, requires that the nubs be formed by removing a portion of the underlying conductive material, whereas Bhatt et al teach peeling away the removable covering, the sacrificial carriers, together with the conductive coating therebetween, and this is followed by abrading the conductive material in the vias to the level of the copper foil. Thus, the nubs in applicants' structure are formed in a different way from Bhatt et al, and in Bhatt et al the nubs are not a permanent structure (See Fig. 1 (c), steps 120 and 122).

Prior art is anticipatory only if every element of the claimed invention is disclosed in a single item of prior art in the form literally defined in the claim. Jamesbury Corp. v. Litton Indus. Products, 756 F.2d 1556, 225 USPQ 253 (Fed. Cir. 1985); Atlas Powder Co. v. du Pont, 750 F.2d 1569, 224 USPQ 409 (Fed. Cir. 1984); American Hospital Supply v. Travenol Labs, 745 F.2d 1, 223 USPQ 577 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

"Anticipation requires identity of the claimed process and a process of the prior art; the claimed process, including each step thereof, must have been described or embodied, either

expressly or inherently, in a single reference" Glaverbel Societe Anonyme v. Northlake Marketing & Supply, Inc., 45 F. 3d 1550, 1554, 33 USPQ2d 1496, 1498 (Fed. Cir. 1995).

Thus, claim 1 is clearly allowable over Bhatt et al.

Claims 2-5, 7-12, 16 and 18 are dependent upon claim 1 and, for the same reasons, are believed to be allowable. Moreover, claim 8 requires the underlying conductive layer be a metal, and the removal is by etching. Since this is not how the nubs are formed in Bhatt et al, this reference could not teach or suggest such a specific process and, for this additional reason, claim 8 is believed to be allowable.

Claim 9 requires that two different metals form the underlying conductive layer, and that one metal be etched off. Clearly, this is neither taught nor suggested by Bhatt et al and, for this additional reason, claim 9 is believed to be allowable.

Claims 16 and 18 require polishing to remove excess conductive material. The undersigned was unable to find any reference to polishing for removal of excess conductive material in Bhatt et al and, for this for this additional reason, claims 16 and 18 are believed to be allowable.

Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bhatt et al. This rejection is not thought to be well taken. First, the examiner admits that Bhatt et al do not teach curing at this temperature range, but states it would have been obvious to use this range. However, the examiner cites no reference to support such allegation. Every feature claimed must be shown in a reference. A possibility or probability that features of the prior art contained in the disclosure of the prior art is not enough to establish anticipation. The same characteristics must be a "natural result flowing" from what is disclosed. (Continental Can Co. v. Monsanto Co., 20 USPQ2d 1746, 1749 (Fed Cir. 1991).

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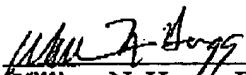
Although on the Office Action Summary claim 15 is indicated as rejected, no specific rejection to claim 15 has been found in the body of the Office action, so no arguments as to its allowability are presented.

It is believed that each of the claims now in the application is distinguishable one from the other and over the prior art. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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WNH:cg



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